

# Warm Weather Brings in Herring, Forerunners of Weakfish; Pickerel Season Opens in New Jersey Next Week

6 FLIES OR 30,  
BROOKER--WHICH?

Half a Dozen May Be All Right  
for Brook; but How About  
Brown's Tastes?

NATIVE EASIER CAUGHT

By ALLEN.  
I have noticed that recently several correspondents of the Rod and Gun have placed themselves on record as believing that a bare half dozen flies are all that are necessary to catch trout under almost every imaginable condition of weather and water.

I used to think so myself. I don't now. I am strongly of the opinion that the experience of those men has been confined to waters inhabited solely by native trout.

I do not believe that any man who has spent any considerable time in fly fishing for brown trout would care to select a list of flies that covered such a limited number of varieties and then affirm that one could have good sport and not go outside of them.

I would be perfectly willing to go to Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia for two weeks trip and carry with me four dozen flies assorted among the Parachutes, Belle, Montreal, Brown Hen, Grizzly King, Coachman, and Black Gnat. But I wouldn't be willing to tackle the Esopus, the Beaverkill or the Broadheads Creek or any other well known trout stream of the East with any such assortment if I knew that I would have to confine my angling to those flies.

Brown and Brook Trout Differ.

The brown trout is a creature apart from our own gallant speckled king of the brooks. He seems to have certain tastes which are not shared by the chalk streams of England, for it is in England that the art of angling for him has been brought to the highest perfection and many of the flies which are the most successful in bringing him to the creel in this country are of English origin pure and simple.

Take for instance the fly which bears the typically American name of "Beaverkill." Miss Orvis, in her splendid work on the "History of Favorite Trout Flies," has copied in this country from an English fly, name then unknown, which had proved to be extraordinarily successful on the stream whose name it now bears.

That fly is good medicine to-day for the brownies, as I have often proved, and they will take it when they spurn such true American flies as the Parachutes, Belle, the Rube Wood, etc.

He who would be successful in taking the brown trout must not only be a skilful fly caster, but must also have a keen eye for the habits of his fish, but even more he must be an adept in matching from his book as closely as possible the natural fly on the water.

As one learns the entomology of our Eastern streams his eyes cannot fail to open wide at the number of the species, the marked difference in their structure and appearance, the shortness of time for each "flight," and the fact that while a certain fly is on the stream the brown trout will take it, and that it will not take it when it is not on the stream.

If you cannot match that insect under all ordinary conditions you might just as well unjolt your rod and go home. Any fly fisherman can tell tales of times when he was on the stream with trout rising all around him and yet was unable to get a strike.

An Experience in the Poconos.

I remember last June I was fishing a well known stream in the Poconos. I had tried fly after fly without a strike and now I was at a long, deep, still pool, just at sunset, the best time of the day, casting among rises that dimpled the water all over the pool.

I tried Beaverkill, Cahill, Gray's Ear, Queen, Coachman, Hickel, Rube Wood, Rube Sedge, Pale Evening Dun, Olive Dun, Whirling Dun and at last gave it up. I was sitting on a rock enjoying a pipe when along came another angler with sagging creel. I noticed that apparently he didn't intend to stop and fish the pool, and thinking that perhaps he recognized my prior right invited him to try it.

He stopped, threw down his creel, and lighting his pipe said: "If fish any longer I run the risk of breaking the laws of the State of Pennsylvania. I've got my limit."

I asked permission to look into his creel, and receiving it, I found it was pretty a mess of fish as I have ever seen. They were all browns, and ran in size from about ten inches up to a hunk that weighed about three pounds.

"Great Scott!" I gasped; "I take off my hat to you. I thought I knew how to fish, but I don't!"

"Let's see your fly," he answered. He looked into my book and carefully, "You haven't got a thing there that they want to-day," he said. "They were taking that Dun last week, but they are off it now. I tried it myself, and after some giving them the bug they wanted. Here it is."

He showed me a Drake with a body that went out from the hook half an inch.

Accomplishments on One Fly.

"This is a Red Quill," he said. "I've caught a trout in my creel with this bug. I've worn out three and this is my fourth and last. Put it on and give 'em a try."

It was an eyed hook. I put it on my leader with a length of tiny gut, and wading out into the pool began casting up the water. At the third cast I had a beautiful rise, which I lost. After a moment or two I tried him again. This time he hooked himself, and after some pretty play I netted a handsome trout of about a pound in weight.

"That's the stuff," said my new found friend, "hook it to 'em!"

To make the story short I caught ten trout out of that pool before it got dark, and all upon one bedraggled, disintegrating fly.

"I've fished this stream for years," said my mentor, "and it is a good deal different from what it used to be. At one time it was all natives, but some one put in the brown, and now I have caught a native in three years. The last I got weighed three pounds and a half. I guess he was too big for these fellows to eat."

"I've always thought I caught the last native in the river. In those days, before the natives went, I could get along well with two or three flies. The native is not so sophisticated as these fellows. He's much easier to catch. A man earns all the browns he gets. I carry with me at least thirty kinds of flies, and I use them all at different times. That's how I almost always get fish."

So all you who would seek the browns in the river, be misled by the advice on the selected half dozen flies, and when you reach your stream catch one of the blue you are dancing above the water in their native element. And then match him the best you can.

## Tarpon Taken on Thread Tackle



150 pound fish caught by Joseph W. Stray of Brooklyn in Pine Island Sound, Fla., using shoemakers' flax sewing thread for a line.

## FIGHTS 150 POUND TARPON 3-2 HOURS

## On Flax Sewing Thread Wears Fish Down With 2 to 4 Pounds Strain.

SOUTH BOCA GRANDE, Fla., May 11.—Joseph W. Stray, 84 Broadway, Brooklyn, N. Y., took a tarpon weighing 150 pounds under rather unique conditions. Mr. Stray fished with shoemakers' flax sewing thread with the reel adjusted to a strain of two pounds with the spool full and the strain gradually increased until it became a trifle less than four pounds when the fish had out about 300 yards of line. The tarpon was hooked still fishing in Pine Island Sound and fought about three and one-half hours. Discussing its capture with a SUN reporter to-day, Mr. Stray said: "The spool was not thumbed nor was the strain increased, save by the automatic action of the reel, from the time of striking until the fish was brought to gaff. The constant strain was sufficient to wear the fish down."

"This tarpon was taken in a flat where the tidal current was very slight and the water nowhere more than six feet in depth and the fish was therefore all on the surface. The time consumed in bringing the fish within reach of the gaff was all but three and one-half hours."

Steady Strain Wears Fish Down. "Usually my fish are released when brought alongside the boat, but in still fishing for tarpon the bait is gorged and the hook fastens in the stomach of the fish or far down in the throat and the fish must be killed. This one was brought in to be mounted."

"Let some of your readers may have an idea that wearing a large fish down by maintaining a light, steady strain on the line is an easy task, permit me to say that it is not the case. It is real work and the angler must resist every present inclination to increase the strain and thus hasten the capture; the steady strain is the key to the matter. The fish is often very hard to withstand."

Companion Takes Second Helping. "I ate a slice from this fish, nicely fried and served with a brown sauce, and while my equid in texture of flesh or in flavor, to Spanish mackerel or bluefish, it was still something no hunter would turn away from."

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Trappers Wrestle With Western Wolf To Spill Lobo's Blood on Trap Line Would Be Warning.

DENVER, Col., May 11.—The expert trappers of the United States Biological Survey never kill a wolf in a trap. To kill wolf blood on a trap line would warn every other lobo to leave the country, they say.

The trapped outlaw is stunned by a blow on the head, then, tied down, muzzled, decked out with a collar and chain, packed on a burro, and taken to camp for killing.

## WINTER TOURNEY WINNERS.

Contestants at Avalon, Cal., Take Large Species.

AVALON, Cal., May 11.—Winners in the winter tournament of the Tuna Club follow: Marlin Swordfish—F. W. Hooper, Boston, 200 pounds.

Yellowtail—Mrs. F. B. Stone, Chicago, 25 1/2 pounds; George C. Roeding, Fresno, Cal., 20 1/2 pounds.

Albacore—J. H. Miller, Denver, 57 pounds; J. H. Miller, Denver, 57 pounds; J. H. Miller, Denver, 57 pounds.

Canadian Rockies Exhibit. There will be an exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History until June 1 an exhibit of about fifty small sketches and thirty or more large pictures of the Canadian Rockies. They are the work of Leonard A. Davis.

## Bass Fishing in Jersey June 15.

June 15 is the opening day in New Jersey for black, white, and calico bass, crappie and pickerel, except in the Delaware River.

## 2 National Parks Open Wednesday.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 11.—Sequoia and Grand National Parks are open to the travelling public beginning next Wednesday.

## Ocean and Stream Turnover June 1.

The Ocean and Stream Fishing Club will hold their annual casting tournament on June 1 at Weequahic Park, Newark, N. J.

## Who's Who in Casting Claude E. Holgate Sketch No. 11

By JAMES ROBERT O'NEILL.

Claude E. Holgate, Magic name. Euphonious. Great sporting writer. Has the casting record in book form. Distance, Lane, Accuracy. Freak casts. How, when and where. No mention of his own abilities.

Made 137 feet 1 1/2 inches, Astbury, two years ago. Since then chesty of his casting. Chief publicity mogul at Newark Centennial celebration. Author of "Others Are Always Stealing My Stuff." Ambitious to live at Belmont. Wonder how any one can. Owns property in Newark meadows. At low tide. Eats very little. Loves flannel handkerchiefs. Also radishes.

Occasionally likes popular airs such as "We Won't Come Home Until Morning." Has good memory. But not after the "bunch" get through with him. Is partial to hand organ music. Never fishes alone. Needs some one with him to bait his hook. Always has a camera slung over his shoulder. Spends a fortune in giving pictures away. Present at every tournament. Always gives the helping hand.

Secretary of the Association of Surf Anglers. One of the "big boys" of the sport. Weighs just 133 pounds. No lightweight. Wears quiet clothes. Always a fine smile. Happy, though married. Great judge of form. Mean on the form. Don't wish to get him in wrong. Every one likes him.

Tries to sing. What a pity! Wears blue. Artistic temperament. Also slouch hat. Leads toward striped shirts. Always looking for new wrinkles. The casting king. A walking encyclopedia on sporting matters. Never knocks any one out to both sides. Then gives both wrong.

Knows every one worth knowing. Always a patriotic duty of sportsmen. James Robert O'Neill, Magic name. Never tell. Here, boy, said my friend, Holgate, 22 Washington place, Newark.

## GRAND ISLAND HAS ALBINO DEER HERD Small Colony in Michigan Now Carefully Guarded.

DETROIT, Mich., May 11.—Grand Island has a herd of albino deer. There are three white does, a white buck and in addition a number of other does. One of these young albino does was obtained by the Michigan Sportsmen's Association, placed on the State game farm and later transferred to Grand Island to join other companions.

When the first albino buck was noticed years ago, he was put in a cage. "Do not shoot the white deer—it will bring you bad luck." Some unsuspicious man, who had no idea of the value of the dead animal to the little museum of the Island Hotel, the animal was shipped to a Detroit taxidermist. It weighed 150 pounds and its antlers had a spread of twenty-six inches.

Not until 1916 was another albino seen. It was a young fawn. Later an albino buck was observed. The herd is being carefully guarded, so that law breakers or the unthinking may not wipe out the little colony.

## CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE.

Wisconsin Organizes Movement to Interest All Sportsmen.

FOND DU LAC, Wis., May 11.—V. P. Buell has been made field secretary of the Wisconsin Game and Poultry Association. The association has raised \$5,000 to carry on the work for two years. When it is hoped that some means of conserving the game and birds will be established in order to care for future work.

Mr. Buell is addressing sportsmen all over the State to organize in permanent form a movement for the conservation of wild life.

Concerning wild life conditions, Mr. Buell says: "No State, I venture to say, has a more complete system of game laws than Wisconsin. The game laws are not from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean, can boast of a greater variety or abundance of fish and game than can the State of Wisconsin."

"Now in order to properly conserve this wild life in this State something must be done; there must be united individuals have given both their time and money in the interests of this work, and we are beginning to realize the unfairness of the situation. Why should all the sportsmen have a hand in this work?"

"Besides, there is nothing that arouses individual interest so much as real conservation work. Every sportsman who gives something either in time or money at once becomes interested in the work."

## An Antidote for Boredom.

LOSKI KEYS, Fla., May 11.—Spanish mackerel are biting. The fish has whims and caprices that makes angling fascinating if it does not try the patience of the angler too much.

## New Guide for Americans Museum.

A new "General Guide to the Exhibition Halls," edited by Director Frederic A. Lucas, has just been issued by the American Museum of Natural History.

## HIGH WATER FOR LOCAL ANGLERS FROM MAY 12 TO MAY 19.

Sandy Hook	Princes	Jamaica Bay	Willow Island	New London
(The following are in feet)	(The following are in feet)	(The following are in feet)	(The following are in feet)	(The following are in feet)
May 12..... 9.50 10.17 10.01 10.23 10.41	May 12..... 9.50 10.17 10.01 10.23 10.41	May 12..... 9.50 10.17 10.01 10.23 10.41	May 12..... 9.50 10.17 10.01 10.23 10.41	May 12..... 9.50 10.17 10.01 10.23 10.41
May 13..... 10.17 10.34 10.18 10.40 10.58	May 13..... 10.17 10.34 10.18 10.40 10.58	May 13..... 10.17 10.34 10.18 10.40 10.58	May 13..... 10.17 10.34 10.18 10.40 10.58	May 13..... 10.17 10.34 10.18 10.40 10.58
May 14..... 10.34 10.51 10.35 10.57 11.15	May 14..... 10.34 10.51 10.35 10.57 11.15	May 14..... 10.34 10.51 10.35 10.57 11.15	May 14..... 10.34 10.51 10.35 10.57 11.15	May 14..... 10.34 10.51 10.35 10.57 11.15
May 15..... 10.51 11.08 10.52 11.14 11.32	May 15..... 10.51 11.08 10.52 11.14 11.32	May 15..... 10.51 11.08 10.52 11.14 11.32	May 15..... 10.51 11.08 10.52 11.14 11.32	May 15..... 10.51 11.08 10.52 11.14 11.32
May 16..... 11.08 11.25 11.09 11.31 11.49	May 16..... 11.08 11.25 11.09 11.31 11.49	May 16..... 11.08 11.25 11.09 11.31 11.49	May 16..... 11.08 11.25 11.09 11.31 11.49	May 16..... 11.08 11.25 11.09 11.31 11.49
May 17..... 11.25 11.42 11.26 11.48 12.06	May 17..... 11.25 11.42 11.26 11.48 12.06	May 17..... 11.25 11.42 11.26 11.48 12.06	May 17..... 11.25 11.42 11.26 11.48 12.06	May 17..... 11.25 11.42 11.26 11.48 12.06
May 18..... 11.42 12.00 11.43 12.05 12.23	May 18..... 11.42 12.00 11.43 12.05 12.23	May 18..... 11.42 12.00 11.43 12.05 12.23	May 18..... 11.42 12.00 11.43 12.05 12.23	May 18..... 11.42 12.00 11.43 12.05 12.23
May 19..... 12.00 12.17 12.01 12.23 12.41	May 19..... 12.00 12.17 12.01 12.23 12.41	May 19..... 12.00 12.17 12.01 12.23 12.41	May 19..... 12.00 12.17 12.01 12.23 12.41	May 19..... 12.00 12.17 12.01 12.23 12.41

## HERRING, WEAKFISH FORE RUNNERS, HERE

## Sea Bass Caught at Mussel Beds—Fluke Expected Any Time.

The warm weather wave last week is responsible, in the eyes of anglers, for the early coming of the forerunners of weakfish, now in Jamaica and Great South bays. Doubtless the weakfish season will be earlier than last year's, when for the first time in many years the first weakfish in Jamaica Bay failed to be recorded during the month of May.

Sometimes the first weakfish is taken during the first week in May, sometimes the second, but nearly always the first fish are reported. It was June 2 of last year when the first weakfish was taken at Valentine's Point by Charles "The Hawk" of the Hawk Club.

The first sea bass of the season was taken this week at the Mussel Beds, and doubtless many boats will turn their noses to that place to-day that first fish are reported.

First ling and hake were also taken this week at Rockaway bell buoy and catches of sea flounders are growing more numerous. Always gives the helping hand.

Cod and first blackfish are being caught in the outside waters, reports of catches coming from Seventeen Fathoms. "Catches as big as blackfish" are one enthusiast put it, are taking the angler's bait and are as numerous catches of two and three fish at a clip are not uncommon.

In the sheltered areas of the sea, the bays and sounds, flounders are biting, and with the activity of the fish that comes with warm weather, the fish are improved. Also now that they are out of the mud they fight better on the line. Fluke are expected any day.

## SPORTSMEN URGED TO FIGHT FIRE

Editor Says Stay at Homes Owe It to Men at Front.

HARRISBURG, Pa., May 11.—James Ransome, editor of the *Open*, is appealing to the patriotic duty of sportsmen in regard to fires in the woods. The young men of the mountain districts have gone abroad to fight the Hun, the State Forestry Department has lost State game lands, and the need of men to fight fire is great, he says.

After cautioning sportsmen about the use of matches in the woods, Mr. Ransome says: "If you see smoke in the woods drop everything else and fight it to the end, as you proudly expect our boys in France to fight the Hun."

"It is up to the sportsmen and the farmers this year to fight the fires. There are no men left to be hired to do it. You are doing just as much for your country if you help to put out a forest fire as you are if you are fighting the Hun."

"Do not shoot the white deer—it will bring you bad luck." Some unsuspicious man, who had no idea of the value of the dead animal to the little museum of the Island Hotel, the animal was shipped to a Detroit taxidermist. It weighed 150 pounds and its antlers had a spread of twenty-six inches.

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## SPORTSMEN'S PLATFORM.

Ten Planks of New Mexico Game Protective Association.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., May 11.—The platform of the New Mexico Game Protective Association has ten planks which will be of interest to State club members. The planks follow: "We stand for vigorous and impartial enforcement of the game and fish laws."

"We favor Federal control of migratory birds and prohibition of spring shooting."

"For cooperation with stockmen in a vigorous campaign against predatory animals."

"For an adequate system of game refuges."

"For such an increase in game and fish as will furnish legitimate sport for every citizen."

"We are opposed in general to the public propagation in New Mexico of foreign species as a substitute for native animals."

"We represent 1,200 members, each and every one pledged to observe the letter of the law and the spirit of good sportsmanship."

"We are not in politics."

"We stand behind every warden who does his duty."

## DO YOUR BIT--EAT SKATES AND RAYS

Russell J. Coles Follows Example Set by Capt. John Smith in 1608.

U. S. GIVES 29 RECIPES

By H. P. MOORE.

The redoubtable Capt. John Smith, while exploring Chesapeake Bay during the summer of 1608, after trying vainly to catch fish in a frying pan, resorted more successfully to the sword, an instrument in the use of which he was doubtless more expert.

Included in his catch was a sting ray which he found to be no mean antagonist, for it drove its tail spine into his wrist, inflicting a wound an inch and a half deep, and of such severity and alarming consequences that the captain believed it fatal, and his companions buried themselves in digging his grave.

Fortunately the use of "a precious ointment" so alleviated the pain that the wound was not required, and the sturdy soldier was able to eat his foe for supper.

Example Set by Capt. John Smith.

In the more than three centuries since this adventure, which so nearly cut short the career of one of the most interesting characters in American history, not much progress has been made in utilizing the abundant food supply offered by the skates and rays. A few of these fish are eaten in some parts of the country, but it is safe to say that on the day of the first weakfish in Jamaica Bay failed to be recorded during the month of May.

The sting ray, as it is often called, is one of the most common of a group of fishes known as skates and rays. They are all characterized by a flattened body, a large, broad, flat head, and their outlines as viewed from above are generally either quadrangular or roughly oval, with comparatively broad, flat, in the sting rays and others reduced to a mere fin.

The weapon which figures in the story of Capt. Smith is a long serrated spine, occasionally two or three, on the basal half of the head, and sometimes there is no poison gland connected with it. It makes a very painful wound almost certain to be infected, and the fish capable of inflicting it are regarded by the fishermen with great respect.

Giant Ray Called Devil Fish.

The sting rays, of which there are a number of species on the coasts of the United States, reach a large size, being sometimes six or seven feet in breadth, with a total length of ten or twelve feet, but the giant of its kind is the so-called Atlantic sting ray, which sometimes reaches a total length of twenty feet.

The great size and enormous strength of this fish, and the fact that it is a voracious feeder, have given rise to extraordinary myths concerning it, but the facts are sufficiently impressive without exaggeration. It is sometimes taken for sport with the harpoon, and when secured it is often used as a weapon of defense.

Another interesting group of rays, called skates, are more common and are much more numerous. They are all characterized by a flattened body, a large, broad, flat head, and their outlines as viewed from above are generally either quadrangular or roughly oval, with comparatively broad, flat, in the sting rays and others reduced to a mere fin.

A large number of the skates and rays, however, are more ordinary in character, possessing neither enormous size and strength nor offensive weapons. They all have the same general habits, living on the bottom, though often appearing in the water, and sometimes hurrying themselves into the air to fall back to a resounding noise. They feed on crabs, mollusks and other bottom dwellers, and are sometimes used as bait for other fish.

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